

Board of Health Report – September 4th, 2019

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager

Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:

- Continuing to work with LPD and UML grant partners on a “Death Database” as a means to retroactive study the lives of fatal opioid overdose victims. Plan is to analyze victims’ encounters with first responders, medical services, and other professionals to see where opportunities for harm reduction and education may have been missed as an effort to identify new opportunities for client engagement moving forward.
- Continuing to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor’s Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force to plan monthly meeting agendas, identify potential initiatives, contact presenters, and invite new agencies to participate.
 - Mayor’s Opioid Task Force released a PSA regarding the concern of historical increased rates of nonfatal opioid-related overdoses during the summer months.
 - *Next Meetings: August 26th from 5:30-6:30pm at City Hall, Mayor’s Reception Room*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee members released a report highlight historic increase in opioid-related overdoses in Lowell during the summer months. Topics that the Subcommittee are continuing to look into include specific risk factors of opioid overdose associated with winter weather, effects of being administered Narcan and not seeking immediate medical attention, and an update on HIV and opioid use in Lowell.
- Held first Media Subcommittee meeting of the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force on August 12th. Intent of Media Subcommittee is to enhance the messaging put together by the Data Subcommittee and effectively disseminate messaging to the community.

Smart Policing Initiative Grant and Lowell CO-OP

- Clinical Recovery Specialist position for the Lowell CO-OP was reposted after the initial posting did not produce a candidate recommendation. First rounds interviews were held the week of August 12th.
- Lainnie, Maricia, and team members of the Lowell CO-OP continue to participate in Homeless Outreach meetings to discuss coordination of care and brainstorm ways to improve the homeless population’s access to housing services.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Attended New England Institute of Addiction Studies four-day training in Waterville Valley from August 18th through August 22nd. Courses taken were relevant to supervision of prevention and outreach staff/efforts.
- Actively working with Division staff to write and edit content for the new DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org website.
- Held resource tables specific to sharps and unwanted medication education at National Night Out (Morey School) on August 6th and the Drug Story Theater showing hosted by the Greater Lowell Boys and Girls club on August 14th.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)
Michael Hall, M.Ed., MOAPC Coordinator

Strategy One (implement Life Skills Training across the cluster): *Life Skills Training is an evidenced based prevention curriculum supported by the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.*

- We are beginning scheduling meetings with school administrators across the cluster to review implementation. On August 14 I met with the new health curriculum coordinator of Billerica Public Schools. Other towns will be determined as school personnel become available.
- We met with Place of Promise (a private treatment facility in Lowell) to follow up on implementation since our June training and discuss ongoing implementation.

Grant Strategy Two (coordination and promotion of education on harm reduction strategies):

- N/A

Additional activities include:

- Active participation in Billerica Substance Abuse Prevention committee (August 14)
- Facilitated planning meetings for the second Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium scheduled for December 6th, 2019. The planning committee meets weekly and is chaired by MOAPC coordinator.
- Tri- Chair of Greater Lowell Health Alliance Substance Use Prevention task force. Began distribution of updated resource cards. Began process of creating the new Substance Use Prevention piece of the GLHA Community Health Improvement Plan
- Expanded our scope of Substance use disorder in the workplace to include trainers from The Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative. Our goal is to have a workable training in place by January 2020
- MOAPC grant funding supported community partners in attending the New England Institute of Addiction Studies conference (August 18th-22nd) and the Cape Cod Substance Addiction Disorder Conference (September 5th-9th)
- Drugfreegreaterlowell.org website set to go live by August 31, 2019
- Collaborating with Heroin Is Killing My Town, a nonprofit opioid abuse awareness organization, to organize the Merrimack Valley Overdose Awareness Day event in Lowell on August 31st.
- Coordinated the Greater Lowell Recovery month Press conference, held in Billerica on September 10th to announce related recovery and awareness area events through September and October
- In Collaboration with the Lowell Police Department, hosted an Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day event on August 13th at 341 Pine Street from 2pm-6pm.

Disposal Day Data Collection

| | Medication (lbs) | Sharps (lbs) | Total Sharps Boxes | Total Attendees |
|-----------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--|
| 3/13/2019 | 255 | 317 | | 162 |
| 6/11/2019 | 54 | 196 | 4 | 76 |
| 6/15/2019 | 18 | 25 | 1 | <i>Closed Collection for School Nurses</i> |
| 8/13/2019 | 85 | 111 | 3 | 67 |

Partnerships for Success (PFS)
Lauren Keisling, Outreach Health Educator

Strategy One (social media and education dissemination to high school-aged youth re: sharing prescription medications):

PFS Social Media Campaign:

- PFS is launching a social media campaign focusing on social norms of prescription medication misuse amongst Lowell high school-aged individuals and providing refusal skill examples. These informational posts will be posted and shared across community partners' social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and will roll out in mid-October.

UMASS Lowell (UML) Collaboration:

- PFS Coordinator is actively involved in the UML AOD Task Force.
- PFS Coordinator will conduct the second "Straight Talk" series beginning September 17. These sessions include open discussion about different substances and their use, with the mission of broadening student knowledge on substances to encourage informed decision making.
- Student Affairs requested prescription medication misuse prevention training for students involved in Greek Life on campus. PFS Coordinator will meet with chapter presidents to plan trainings during the Fall semester.

Strategy Two (social media and education dissemination to parents/guardians and high school-aged youth re: proper disposal and storage):

"Help Keep Our Kids Safe" Campaign

-The LHD hosted its Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day event on Tuesday, August 13. PFS promoted the event via campaign ads in the Lowell Sun, and continued collaboration with Walgreen's Pharmacy.
-PFS Coordinator is working to create a two-sided handout giving tips on the proper storage of prescription medication as well as identifying medication disposal sites in Lowell. This handout will be distributed to the general public and parents/caregivers of local youth.

Community Outreach:

-LHD Substance Abuse and Prevention Division (SAPD) staff attended the Lowell Folk Festival on July 27th and 28th alongside the Lowell Fire Department, disseminating information to roughly 500 individuals pertaining to proper medication storage/ disposal, and the Syringe Collection Program.
- SAPD staff attended National Night Out in the Highlands neighborhood on August 6. Information was disseminated to 100 individuals about the August 13 Disposal Day event and about the Syringe Collection Program.

Drug Free Greater Lowell (DFGL) Website:

-SAPD has been working to re-create the DFGL website with funds from both PFS and MOAPC grants. The website is set to soft launch on August 27, with the hard launch occurring in September as part of National Recovery Month programming.

Monthly Meeting: Next meeting is 8/28 from 1:00PM-2:00PM at the Lowell Health Department.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP)
Maricia Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor

Lowell CO-OP Data 2019

| -- | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Total Encounters | 78 | 76 | 32 | 47 | 88 | 58 | 41 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 420 |
| Unique Encounters | -- | 37 | 28 | 29 | 52 | 34 | 28 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 208 |
| Initial Interaction | -- | 9 | 6 | 9 | 17 | 3 | 7 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 51 |
| OD Follow-Up | 2 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 17 | 3 | 6 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 56 |
| Section 35 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 11 |
| Clinical Clients | 7 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 30 |
| Disseminate Narcan | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 4 | 20 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 46 |
| SUD Treatment | 11 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 18 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 98 |
| Medical Treatment | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 17 |
| Other Services | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 3 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 33 |
| Misc. Outreach | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 156 | 223 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 379 |

Outreach and Educational Events

| Date | Event Type | Location | Topic | Attendance |
|--------|--------------------------|---|----------------|------------|
| 8-2-19 | Educational Presentation | Middlesex House of Corrections: PACT Unit | CO-OP Services | 30 |
| 8-6-19 | Information Table | National Night Out | CO-OP Services | Pending |

Relationship Building

| Date | Organization | Relationship Building |
|---------|---|---|
| 8-23-19 | Homeless Outreach Meeting hosted by CTI, Inc. | CO-OP attended to discuss coordination of homelessness efforts. |
| 8-26-19 | Lowell Public Health Nurses | CO-OP Supervisor and CO-OP met with Beth Moffett and Public Health Nurses |

Additional

- Vacant Clinical Recovery Specialist (CRS) Position: First round interviews for the CRS position were held the week of August 12th. Second round interviews are scheduled for the week of August 26th.
- CO-OP Supervisor and CO-OP attended Harm Reduction training at Trinity EMS, conducted by Mass DPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator (SCPC)

Outreach and Building Community Partnerships:

- Partnerships
 - Lowell Police Department: National Night Out
 - Renaissance on the River: Aiken Street Bridge & River Walk
 - Office of Planning and Development: Reopen Kerouac Park & Neighborhood enforcement walk
 - Lowell Police Department: Summer Movie Nights

- Community Agencies

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MassDot ○ Office of the City Manager ○ CO-OP ○ Lowell National Historical Park ○ Lowell Festival Foundation ○ Coalition for a Better Acre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Department of Planning & Development ○ Lowell Street Department ○ Lowell Police Department ○ Lowell Parks Department ○ Lowell Housing Authority |
|--|---|

Community Events Attended:

- 8/06 National Night Out: Morey School: Outreach
- 8/22 HIV Networking meeting: Program Update

Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morey School • Stocklost School • Rogers Stem School • Hadley Park • Hunts Falls Bridge • Lowell Justice Center • VFW Highway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worthen Park • Christian Hill Reservoir • Amory Park • Sheehy Park • N Common Park • S Common Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Front Park • Merrimack River Bike Path • La Lachuer Park • Rogers Street Bridge • Jack Kerouac Park |
|---|---|---|

Syringe Collection Activity 2019

| Total Number Of... | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug 1st - 23rd | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Discarded syringe pick-up requests | 8 | 6 | 8 | 21 | 17 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 60 |
| Incoming calls for syringe pick-up requests | 6 | 21 | 20 | 17 | 11 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 75 |
| Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded syringe pick-up requests | 49 | 240 | 334 | 256 | 104 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 985 |
| Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes in the community | 9 | 20 | 25 | 29 | 33 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 114 |
| Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community | 304 | 967 | 488 | 1231 | 751 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 3930 |
| Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events | 0 | 11 | 75 | 49 | 16 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 151 |